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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4937  
INFO AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
OSD WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 001975

STATE FOR SCA/FO, SCA/A, S/CRS, SA/PB, S/CT  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR AID/ANE, AID/DCHA/DG  
NSC PASS FOR WOOD  
OSD FOR SHIVERS  
CENTCOM FOR CJTF-101, POLAD, JICCENT

EO 12958 DECL: 07/30/2018  
TAGS FGOV, PREL, PTER, PINR, AF  
SUBJECT: EX-TALIBAN SEEK MEDIATION ROLE

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Jeremiah Howard, for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D).

SUMMARY

1. (C) On July 29, President Karzai gave the Ambassador a plan for negotiations with the Taliban that he had received from Taliban reconcilees  
Presidency Wants to Exploit Ex-Taliban as Mediators

2. (C) On July 30, Deputy National Security Advisor Engineer Ibrahim Spinzada, who is seeking U.S. support in convincing Russia to allow remov

3. (C) The four ex-Taliban mentioned the plan for negotiations that had  
been given to President Karzai, and, without referring directly to its text, emphasized several key points: -- Force alone cannot defeat the T  
Ex-Taliban Moderates as an Inchoate Movement

4. (SBU) In the weeks leading up to our July 30 meeting, we established contact with numerous senior ex-Taliban. We provide the paragraphs bel

5. (SBU) Former Foreign Ministry aide Waheed Mujda has written a book on the Taliban ("Ahmed Rashid wrote from the outside, but I wrote from i

6. (SBU) Mujda repots that immediately after 9/11, the Taliban began to fracture over the wisdom and morality of attacking civilians, over los

7. (SBU) Mujda lamented that Karzai named governors who harassed ex-Taliban of all ranks rather than open a dialog. Meanwhile, Mujda alleged,  
Civilian Casualties and "Hunger Suicides"

8. (C) The Taliban's Attorney General, Maulavi Jalal-u-Din Shinwari, agrees the Taliban is growing even more militant. Taliban ideologues have

9. (C) Shinwari lambasted international forces for repeated civilian casualty incidents, which make the Taliban's recruiting and ideological t  
Not a Loose Cannon

10. (SBU) Parliamentary Deputy Mullah Abdul Salaam Rocketi, whose name derives from his deft touch with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, w

11. (C) Rocketi counsels that "Karzai is lost," a feckless ally for the U.S. whose cabinet, he argues, is driven by members' separate and comp  
Alternatives to Mullah Omar

12. (SBU) Two figures generally recognized as heading the ex-Taliban moderates are ex-Foreign Minister Mutawakkil, and ex-Ambassador to Pakist

13. (C) Mutawakkil said the U.S. must realize there are two kinds of reconciliation. One, which he calls the U.S. strategy, is designed to enti

14. (C) Mutawakkil and Zaeef believe firmly that the international community is distancing itself irreparably from ordinary Afghans. Mutawakkil

15. (C) Mutawakkil elaborated on what the Afghan constitution should be like. Democracy, he stipulated, is a means to a better and peaceful li

16. (C) The constitution, Mutawakkil continued, is as it stands now "a piece of paper," which even Karzai's nominal allies and opponents in Pe  
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